

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01654 01 OF 03 131429Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13 /080 W
-----128494 131451Z /53

O R 131330Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7244
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 USBERLIN 1654

BONN HOLD FOR DAVID ANDERSON

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, AKB, BQG
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT ON NICO HUEBNER

REF: (A) STATE 175805, (B) BERLIN 4508, (C) USBERLIN 1627,
(D) USBERLIN 1526, (E) USBERLIN 1088, (F) USBERLIN 1063, (G)
BERLIN A-18, (H) USBERLIN 800, (I) USBERLIN 788, (J) USBERLIN 730,
(K) BONN 11063 AND 10344

SUMMARY: BERLIN PRESS REPORTED JULY 12 THE INTENTION OF A
BERLIN HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION TO DELIVER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
DURING HIS VISIT IN BERLIN A PETITION REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT'S
INTERVENTION TO SECURE THE FREEDOM OF NICO HUEBNER, AN EAST
BERLINER RECENTLY CONVICTED BY GDR COURTS TO A FIVE-YEAR
SENTENCE FOR HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO SERVE IN THE GDR VOLKSARMEE
AND FOR DEFAMING THE STATE AND ENGAGING IN OTHER ANTI-STATE
ACTIVITIES. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHAT ACTIONS, IF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 01654 01 OF 03 131429Z

ANY, MISSION SHOULD TAKE WITH RESPECT TO MATTER. END
SUMMARY

1. NICO HUEBNER IS EAST BERLINER WHO REFUSED INDUCTION
INTO GDR VOLKSARMEE ON GROUNDS THAT BERLIN, INCLUDING
EAST BERLIN, IS, ACCORDING TO FOUR POWER AGREEMENTS
AND LEGISLATION, A DEMILITARIZED AREA AND THAT THE

GDR VIOLATED THE DEMILITARIZED STATUS OF EAST BERLIN WHEN IT SOUGHT TO INDUCT HIM, A RESIDENT OF (EAST) BERLIN, INTO THE GDR VOLKSARMEE. AS REPORTED REFTEL B, NICO HUEBNER WAS CONVICTED BY GDR COURT AND SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS. HE WAS FOUND GUILTY OF REFUSING INDUCTION INTO GDR VOLKSARMEE AND FOR DEFAMING THE STATE AND ENGAGING IN OTHER ANTI-SATE ACTIVITIES. HUEBNER CASE HAS ATTRACTED MUCH ATTENTION IN WEST BERLIN AS REFLECTED IN REFTELS C, E, H & I. IN ADDITION (RE REFTEL A), DAVID ANDERSON MAY WISH CONSULT REF D (ON HUEBNER'S REPORTED PRE-TRIAL TREATMENT), REF F (ON GDR REACTION TO ALLIED STATEMENT), AND REFS G AND J (CONTAINING SOME BACKGROUND ON HUEBNER AND TEXT OF HIS PERSONAL STATEMENT).

2. THE BERLIN PRESS ON 12 JULY CARRIED REPORTS THAT WOLFGANG MLECZOWSKI, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE (WEST) BERLINER ARBEITSGRUPPE FUER MENSCHENRECHTE (WORKING GROUP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS) STATED THAT REACHING THE DECISION IN HUEBNER CASE SO SHORTLY BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARRIVAL IN BERLIN IS AN OPEN CONFRONTATION (EINE OFFENNE KONFRONTATION) AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. MLECZKOWSKI SAID THAT HIS ORGAIZATION HAD CONTACT WITH HUEBNER AND WITH OTHERS IN EAST GERMANY ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. IT WAS REPORTED THAT MLECZKOWSKI HAS PREPARED A PETITION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF HUEBNER FROM PRISION, AND THAT HTIS PETITION HAS ALSO BEEN SIGNED BY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01654 01 OF 03 131429Z

THE OPPOSITION CDU LEADER PETER LORENZ (SEE REF I FOR LORENZ LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE SUBJECT AND REF K FOR U.S. RESPONSE THERETO DELIVERED ON 30 JUNE). MLECZKOWSKI WISHES, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, TO PRESENT THE PETITION TO PRESIDENT CARTER WHEN HE IS IN BERLIN. MLECZKOWSKI WAS INCIDENTALLY MENTIONED BY NAME IN EAST GERMAN REPORTS OF THE HUEBNER TRIAL.

3. TO MISSION KNOWLEDGE, THERE ARE CURRENTLY THE FOLLOWING HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN BERLIN: ARBEITSGRUPPE WESTBERLIN DER GESELLSCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE (A BRANCH OF THE FRANKFURT-BASED GESELLSCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE); KOMITE FUER MENSCHENRECTE (A COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERED IN EAST BERLIN); AND BERLINER ARBEITSGRUPPE FUER MENSCHENRECHTE (THE ORGANIZATION WHICH IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS MESSAGE AND WHICH HAS INDICATED ITS DESIRE TO SUBMIT A PETITION ON NICO HUEBNER T THE PRESIDETN). THE LATTER IS A SPLINTER GROUP FROM THE GESELLSCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE. DETAILS FOLLOW.

4. THE GESELLSCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE (SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS) WAS FOUNDED IN FRANKFURT IN 1972 BY THE SOVIET EXILE AGRUSOW. LATER THE HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01654 02 OF 03 131412Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13 /080 W
-----128343 131450Z /53

O R 131330Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7245
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 USBERLIN 1654

BONN HOLD FOR DAVID ANDERSON

WAS CORNELIA GERSTENMAIER, THE DAUGHTER OF A FORMER
PRESIDENT OF THE FRG BUNDESTAG. THE ORGANIZATION
ORIGINATED WITH THE GOAL OF COUNTERBALANCING THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE HIGHLY LEFT-ORIENTED LIGA (LEAGUE) FUER MENSCHEN-
RECHTE. THE LIGA FUER MENSCHENRECHTE CONCERNED ITSELF
PRIMARILY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE
WESTERN WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN AUTHORITARIAN WESTERN
STATES AND BASICALLY IGNORED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN EAST BLOC ON OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. THE GESELL-
SCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE ON THE OTHER HAND, SAW ITS
MAIN TASK IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY
COMMUNISTS. ONE OF ITS MAIN ACTIVITIES WAS A CAMPAIGN
FOR THE SOVIET VLADIMIR BUKOWSKI, WHO SHORTLY AFTER HE
WAS FREED OFFERED THE SOCIETY THANKS FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES
ON HIS BEHALF. A PARTICULARLY INTENSE ACTIVITY OF THE
GROUP BY THEIR BERLIN BRANCH (ARBEITSGRUPPE WESTBERLIN DER
GESELLSCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE-BERLIN WORKING GROUP OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 01654 02 OF 03 131412Z

THE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS) CONCERNED EFFORTS TO HAVE PROFESSOR HELLMUTH NITSCHKE AND DR. KARL-HEINZE NITSCHKE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE GDR. THEIR EFFORTS WERE SUCCESSFUL AND IN FACT PROFESSOR NITSCHKE HAS BECOME THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GESELLSCHAFT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE EXISTS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOCIETY AND THE FRG MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.

5. THE GESELLSCHAFT WHOSE MAIN OFFICE IS IN FRANKFURT AND ITS BERLIN BRANCH HAD A DISAGREEMENT EARLY IN 1978 CONCERNING THE HANDLING OF THE NICO HUEBNER CASE. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE BERLIN BRANCH REJECTED THE MAIN OFFICE'S ATTEMPTS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE HUEBNER MATTER. AS A RESULT, THE SPOKESMAN, WOLFGANG MLECZKOWSKI AND OTHERS OF THE BERLIN BRANCH, SEPARATED EARLIER THIS YEAR FROM THE GESELLSCHAFT AND ESTABLISHED THE "BERLINER ARBEITSGRUPPE FUER MENSCHENRECHTE" (BERLIN WORKING GROUP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS). THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ARBEITSGRUPPE IS MLECZKOWSKI. IT HAS ABOUT 20 MEMBERS. THE ARBEITSGRUPPE PLANS TO FORM AN ORGANIZATION CONCERNING ITSELF WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND WHICH MAY SEEK TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH SIMILAR ORGANIZATION EXTANT IN EASTERN EUROPE. MEETINGS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS ARE PLANNED FOR LATE SUMMER IN VADUZ IN LICHTENSTEIN.

6. THERE STILL EXISTS AT THIS TIME AN ARBEITSGRUPPE WESTBERLIN OF THE GESELLSCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE IN BERLIN. IT IS UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HERBERT GERICKE. BUT THIS ORGANIZATION IS SUFFERING A DWINDLING OF MEMBERSHIP. THE GESELLSCHAFT AS A WHOLE HAS APPROXIMATELY 1000 MEMBERS.

7. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON PROFESSOR HELLMUTH NITSCHKE, CHAIRMAN OF THE GESELLSCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE. BORN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01654 02 OF 03 131412Z

10 AUGUST 1925 IN GRANESAU KREIS ELBOGEN, SCHLESSEN (TODAY PART OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA).

1943 - INDUCTION INTO WEHRMACHT. LATER, HELD BY AMERICANS AS PRISONER OF WAR. AFTER WAR, RESETTLEMENT OF HIS FAMILY IN MEININGEN/THURINGEN.

1946-51 - STUDENT OF GERMANISTIK AND CULTURAL SOCIOLOGY IN JENA.

1951 - PASSED STATE EXAM IN JENA. THEREAFTER ASSISTANT AT THE GERMANISTIK INSTITUTE IN JENA AND LECTURER FOR GERMAN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE AT THE UNIVERSITY IN LEIPZIG.

1953 - FURTHER STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG.

1954-56 - LECTURER AT PEKING UNIVERSITY, WESTERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGE FACULTY. AFTER RETURN TO LEIPZIG, PROMOTION TO DR. OF PHILOSOPHY.

1959-64 - LECTURER AND DIRECTOR OF THE LITERARY INSTITUTE
AT THE TRADE UNION COLLEGE (HOCHSCHULE DER GEWERKSCHAFTEN)
IN BERNAU.
FROM 1965 - LECTURER AND FROM 1966 PROFESSOR FOR NEW
GERMAN LITERATURE AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY IN EAST BERLIN.
1966-67 - DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GDR CULTURAL AND INFORMA-
TION CENTER IN CAIRO. THERE, AS A RESULT OF HIS CRITICAL
STATEMENTS (MISSION IS UNAWARE AGAINST WHOM THEY WERE
DIRECTED) PREMATURELY RECALLED.
1967 - WITHDRAWAL OF PROFESSORSHIP AND TRANSFER AS
LECTURER TO THE LOSSUTH UNIVERSITY IN DEBRECEN, HUNGARY,
1970 - RETURNED TO EAST BERLIN
1971 - TRANSFERRED TO THE TECHNICAL SCHOOL (FACHSCHULE)
FOR ECONOMICS IN RODEWISCH, SACHSEN. THERE, AMONG OTHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01654 03 OF 03 131429Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13 /075 W
-----128516 131450Z /53

O R 131330" JUL 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7246
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 USBERLIN 1654

BONN HOLD FOR DAVID ANDERSON

THINGS, ACTIVE AS A PARTY SECRETARY.
L5 AUGUST 1976 - EXIT FROM THE SED AN APPLICATION FOR
RENUNCIATION OF GDR NATIONALITY.
22. SEPTEMBER 1976 - DISCHARGE FROM THE FACHSCHULE FOR
ECONOMICS.
1. MARCH 1977 - SENT LETTER TO U.S. PRESIDENT CARTER IN
WHICH HE REFERRED TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE GDR,
IN PARTICULAR HIS OWN SITUATION.

6 APRIL 1977 - WITH HIS WIFE UUSULA, IMPRISONED.
AUGUST 1977 AS A RESULT OF PUBLIC PRESSURE, PERMITTED TO
LEAVE TO GO TO WEST BERLIN.
SINCE EARLY 1978 - CHAIRMAN OF THE GESELLSCHAFT FUER
MENSCHENRECHTE, WITH MAIN OFFICE IN FRANKFURT.

8. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON WOLFGANG MLECZKOWSKI, CHAIRMAN
OF THE BERLINER ARBEITSGRUPPE FUER MENSCHENRECHTE:
BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 11 DEC 2014] IN KOENIGS WUSTERHAUSEN. PROFESSION -
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 01654 03 OF 03 131429Z

HISTORIAN (KIPLOMHISTORIKER). STUDENT AT THE KIRCHLICHE
HOCHSCHULE IN EAST BERLIN. IN THE 1960'S - SERVED AS
A DISTRICT SECRETARY (KREISSEKRETAER) OF THE LDP (LIBERAL
DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN EAST GERMANY) AND WAS EXILED FROM
THE PARTY IN 1967. ENCOUNTERED MANY POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES
THEREAFTER. SINCE 21 OCTOBER 1976, WITH HELP FROM THE
CHURCH, WAS PERMITTED TO LEAVE EAST BERLIN AND LEGALLY
SETTLED IN WEST BERLIN. SINCE THEN, STUDENT OF HISTORY
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THE FREE UNIVERSITY IN WEST
BERLIN WHERE HE IS A CANDIDATE FOR A DOCTORATE. FROM
THE BEGINNING OF 1968, SPOKESMAN OF THE ARBEITSGRUPPE
WESTBERLIN DER GESELLSCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE, AND
SHORTLY THEREAFTER FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BERLINER ARBEITSGRUPPE
FUER MENSCHENRECHTE.

9. COMMENT: WHILE THE INTENTION TO PRESENT PRESIDENT CARTER
WITH THE PETITION HAS BEEN WIDELY REPORTED IN BERLIN PRESS,
MISSION HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY MLECZOWSKI OR
BY ANY MEMBER OF HIS GROUP. WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE PREPARED
TO DEAL WITH POSSIBILITY THAT PETITION MAYBE PRESENTED TO HIM
AT TOWN MEETING. END COMMENT

10. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHAT ACTION, IF
ANY, MISSION SHOULD TAKE ON THIS MATTER. GEORGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESIDENT, PETITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL01654
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780287-0344
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780761/aaaabzwx.tel
Line Count: 317
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 26209e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 175805, 78 BERLIN 4508, 78 USBERLIN 1627, 78 USBERLIN 1526, 78 USBERLIN 1088, 78 USBERLIN 1063
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2013416
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT ON NICO HUEBNER
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, AKB, BQG
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/26209e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014